

wherein said modification is either of:

K<sup>1</sup> A) graft copolymerizing said deproteinized natural rubber with an organic compound having an unsaturated bond selected from methacrylic acid, acrylic acid, methyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, acrylonitrile, vinyl acetate, styrene, acrylamide and vinylpyrrolidone, said modified natural rubber having a graft efficiency of 62.7% or more; or

B) epoxidizing said deproteinized natural rubber wherein an epoxidation rate is sufficient to produce a modified deproteinized natural rubber having an epoxidation ratio of 26.0% or more in 5 hours.

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Please add the following new claim:

K<sup>2</sup> →28. (NEW) The modified natural rubber of claim 1, wherein the anionic surfactant is at least one selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid surfactants, sulfonic acid surfactants, sulfate surfactants and phosphate surfactants. ~

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